

Carrizo Plain National Monument Monument Advisory Committee

June 30, 2012



Partners



- Continue to work with our MAC on implementation of the RMP
- Continue to work closely with the Friends of Carrizo
- Established website with TNC to more effectively communicate with Science Review Team and post current research.

<http://carrizo.squarespace.com>

Future: www.carrizoscience.org

- Primary Partners
 - Managing partners (TNC, CDFG)
 - Native American Community
 - Gateway Communities



Gateway Communities



- Continue to work with Taft and Santa Margarita
- Santa Margarita looking at projects with Taft
- Wildflower Festival

Volunteers & Groups

- 2,500 volunteer hours
- National Public Lands Day Event (installed flag pole at Ed Ctr)
- Groups remove/modify fencing



- Wildcore Group
- CCC
- Volunteers, general maintenance/clean-up

Education Center

- Last year record number of visitors; this year below average (3000)
- Numerous tours conducted
- SCA



Cultural

- NHL Designation
- Stabilized historic buildings at Washburn Ranch (Bunkhouse, Cookhouse, Outhouse & Washhouse)



- Developed contract for baseline of condition assessment and management recommendations for rock art sites



Painted Rock Permit System



- Second Year
- Management of tours and permits is going well
- Installed an electronic gate at access point
- Installed signs on perimeter fencing to protect site
- Volunteer site monitoring training

Research



Photo by: Karl Geurs



Provided support for the following research projects:

- Carrizo Plain Ecosystem Project through U.C. Berkeley
- Giant Kangaroo Rat Distribution Monitoring and Modeling – Tim Bean
- CPNM Vegetation Classification and Mapping Project – CDFG and California Native Plant Society
- Kern Primrose Sphinx Moth research
- Le Conte's Thrasher Surveys through PRBO Conservation Science
- Small-scale Restoration Study – Chris Gurney (GKR on restoration)

Additional Surveys and Monitoring

- Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard Surveys
- Annual Wintering Mountain Plover and Long-billed Curlew Survey
- Christmas Bird Count
- Fairy Shrimp and Vernal Pool Monitoring
- *Caulanthus californicus* and *Monolopia congdonii*
- Nesting Raptor Monitoring



Restoration

- Continue to work with a commercial grower to provide us with native perennial grass seed for restoration



Photo by: Karl Geurs

- Currently have two botany interns from the Chicago Botanical Garden collecting native seed
- Monitoring of previous restoration site has shown success

Habitat Management

- **Fire Management**

- **Livestock Grazing**

- Mountain Plover (MOPL) Core pastures: Assessments in August – September 2011 revealed adequate amount of suitable MOPL habitat present; no treatments needed in October for this purpose.
- Blunt-nosed leopard lizard (BNLL) Core pastures: Late January assessments had 600 lbs/ac. and limited green growth. Mid-March assessments were 200 lbs/ac.; no treatments needed for this purpose.
- Giant kangaroo rat (GKR) Core pastures: March assessments were 200 lbs/ac.; no treatments needed for this purpose.
- Fairy Shrimp pastures: March assessment determined no treatment needed for this purpose.

Recreation

- OHV Grant, Restoration
- Fee Information
 - Starting process for fee implementation; business plan for feasibility to charge fees



Outreach and Environmental Education



- Worked with California Virtual Academy to develop curriculum for schools
- Provided informational talks to outside groups, such as Creston & Carrisa Plains Elementary Schools
- Presenter at Wildflower Festival
- Published Plaintalk Newsletter
- Updated Plant List

- Prepared paper and presentation on Homestead Act during Homestead Act Commemoration Symposium at Society for American Archeology Conference in Tennessee
- Carrizo display at Taft Library



Travel Management

Minimization Criteria (defined in 43CFR8342.1)

- Routes and trails shall be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other resources of the public lands, and to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability.
- Routes and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats.
- Routes and trails shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors.
- Routes and trails shall not be located in officially designated wilderness areas or primitive areas. Areas and trails shall be located in natural areas only if the authorized officer determines that off-road vehicle use in such locations will not adversely affect their natural, esthetic, scenic, or other values for which such areas are established.

Travel Management

In the Carrizo Plain RMP we made the following decisions that will help us start our Route designations. These decisions will be brought forward as a part of that planning process.

- **Objective REC-6:** Provide opportunities for exploration of remote areas and allow for activities (mechanized and motorized on-road travel) not available within the Primitive zone. The Backcountry zone would also provide visitors with access points to the Primitive zone.
- **Action TRV-4:** Identify and close unneeded or redundant travelways.
- **Action TRV-10:** All existing routes within the Primitive zone would be managed for wilderness characteristics and designated as closed to public use. These roads will be converted into trails or rehabilitated back to their natural state. Certain specific routes that are necessary for administrative access would be available for this use based on a minimum requirements assessment (that is, an assessment that determines vehicle access as a necessity with no reasonable alternatives for access, for example, to carry heavy materials for fence repair or to remove and haul out derelict structures).
- **Allowable Use TRV-3:** Only street-licensed vehicles would be allowed in the Backcountry zone. No green or red sticker vehicles registered under the state OHV program would be allowed. Non-street licensed vehicles (ATVs, motorcycles) would be permitted on a portion of the Temblor Ridge Road from T31S, R21E, Section 23 to T11N, R24W, Section 7 allowing connectivity to the eastern slopes of the Temblors. Staging for activities and trailing of non-street licensed vehicles would be prohibited along Temblor Ridge Road.
- **Allowable Use TRV-4:** Only street-licensed vehicles would be allowed in the Frontcountry zone. No green or red sticker vehicles registered under the state OHV program will be allowed.

Travel Management

The following definitions were used in the Carrizo Plain National Monument RMP and will be brought forward for use in the Travel and Transportation planning process.

Motorized: Vehicles that are motorized including but not limited to cars, trucks, motorcycles, and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) powered by combustion engines or other means. Further restrictions may apply including type and size of vehicle, seasonal use, and license type or permit.

Non-motorized: All modes of transport propelled by means other than combustion or electric motor. This includes bicycles, equestrian, pedestrian, and other livestock-based modes of transportation. Further restrictions may apply including type and nature of transport, size of vehicle, and seasonal use.

Non-mechanized: Modes of transport consisting of no machined parts. This includes pedestrian travel and travel by livestock.

Motorized Authorized use: Modes of transport authorized by the authorizing agency.

Closed: Closed to all motorized and mechanized vehicles. Pedestrian and equestrian use is permitted unless otherwise closed (for example, seasonal wildlife closures or unsafe conditions).

Travel Management

Public Involvement and Process

- Starting today, the public will have 30 days to provide comments. Public comment period will end close of business July 30, 2012
- We will develop the proposed action with alternatives analysis and fonsi
- The public will have a 30 day comment period on the proposed action
- We will issue a decision which may be modified based on comments received
- How to submit written comments:

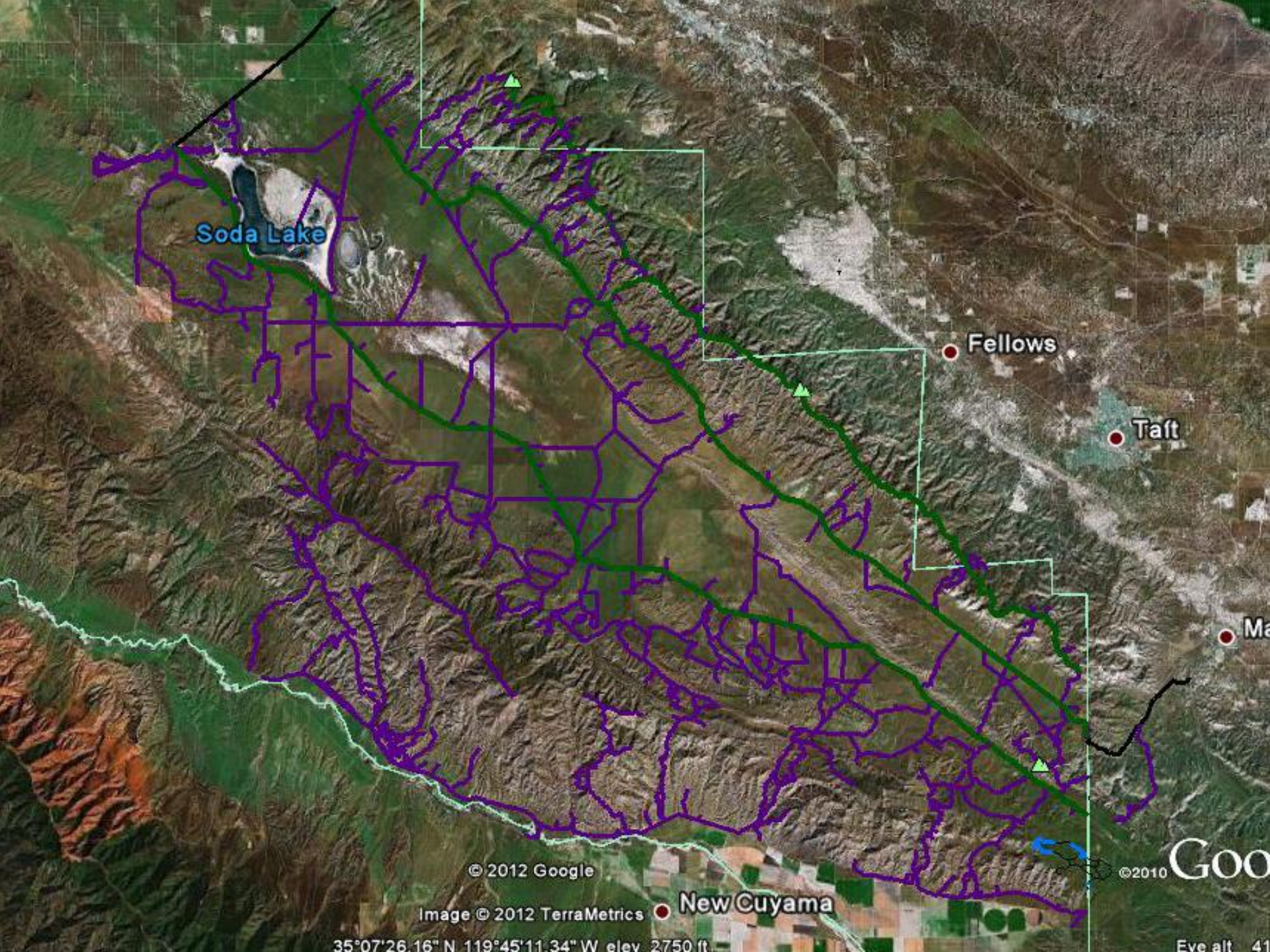
Mail

Carrizo Plain National Monument
Travel Management Comments
C/O Johna Hurl
3801 Pegasus Dr
Bakersfield, CA 93308

E-Mail

BLM_CA_Bakersfield_Public_Comment@blm.gov

- General questions: John Kelley, 661-391-6088



Soda Lake

Fellows

Taft

Ma

New Cuyama

© 2012 Google

Image © 2012 TerraMetrics

©2010 Google

35°07'26.16" N 119°45'11.34" W elev 2750 ft

Eve alt 41